

REMARKS

Applicant notes with appreciation the allowability of claims 14 and 27 in their original form and of claims 3-7, 10, 11, 17-21 and 24-26, if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims.

With a view to better defining the invention and in accordance to the Examiner's objection, claims 3, 10 and 17 have been rewritten in independent form. Claim 10 has been rewritten to include limitations of former claim 1. Furthermore, claim 3 has been amended to include limitation of former claim 1, and claim 17 has been amended to include limitation of former claim 15. Applicant contends that including limitation of formerly intervening claim 2 within amended claim 3 and limitations of formerly intervening claim 16 within amended claim 17 is not required to patentably distinguish amended claims 3 and 17 over the cited art and would unnecessarily narrow the scope of the inventions as described by these claims. Claims 4-7, 11, 18-21, 24 and 25 depend on amended claims 3, 10 or 17 as base claims, and thus are in condition for allowance.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 2, 8, 9, 12, 13, 15, 16, 22, 23 and 28. Rejected claims 1 and 15 have been cancelled without prejudice in order to expedite prosecution of this application. The Applicant reserves the right to pursue these cancelled claims in a continuing application or otherwise. Rejected claims 2, 8, 9, 12, 13, 16, 22 and 23 have been amended to be dependent on amended claims 3 and 17 as base claims. Rejected claim 28 has been amended to include limitations as in claim 3.

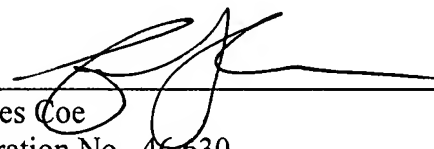
No new matter has been entered by these amendments.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that all claims are in condition for allowance, and it is respectfully requested that the application be passed to issue. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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